WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for distributing software components to computer stations that analyze products, said method comprising:

obtaining a software component including information used by a computer station which communicates with a test station to analyze a product; and

distributing the software component to the computer station automatically based on at least one of an identification of the test station and an identification of the product.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said obtaining step comprises downloading, to the computer station, an equipment file set including said software component, said equipment file set directing the computer station to operate an instrument, said equipment file set being uniquely associated with the computer station and independent of the product.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein an instrument is used to test the product and said obtaining step comprises downloading at the computer station an equipment file set including said software component, said equipment file set directing the computer station to analyze the product, said equipment file set being uniquely associated with the computer station and the instrument and said equipment file set being independent of the product.

4. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said obtaining step comprises downloading at the computer station a test program set, said test program set directing the computer station to analyze the product, and said test program set being uniquely associated with the product and being associated with the computer station.

5. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein an instrument is used to test the product, said obtaining step comprises downloading at the computer station a test program set, said test program set directing the computer station to

analyze the product, and said test program set being uniquely associated with the product and being associated with the computer station and the instrument.

6. A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising testing the product with an instrument based on the software component, wherein the instrument is at least one of a power supply, a communication analyzer, a signal generator, and a frequency counter.

7. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said obtaining step comprises downloading at the computer station at least one of a communication file, a configuration file, a calibration file, a test executive file, a test sequence file, a specification file, and a test step execution file.

8. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein an instrument is used to test the product and further comprising storing in a database multiple equipment file sets, each equipment file set including at least one file identifying communications protocols between the computer station, the product and the instrument used to test the product.

9. A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising storing in a database multiple equipment file sets, each equipment file set including at least one file identifying a calibration for an instrument to be used by the computer station to analyze the product.

10. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the information relates to analyzing at least one of a printed circuit board assembly, a combination of the printed circuit board assemblies, a module, a circuit pack, a field replaceable unit (FRU), a processor, a memory, and a cable.

11. A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising storing, in a database, multiple test program sets, each of which includes at least one test step execution file that identifies steps to be executed by an instrument configured to test the product, wherein said obtaining step comprises accessing the test step execution file.

12. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said obtaining step comprises accessing, by the computer station, a management file server to download software component updates.

13. A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising storing a relationship between the software components, products, instruments, and computer stations.

14. A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising storing in a database information identifying multiple products, test stations used to test each product, instruments used to test the products, and fixtures used to hold the products.

15. A management system database configured to be used with a computer station that operates an instrument when analyzing a product, the database storing software components that are configured to be executed by the computer station to communicate with and operate the instrument in order to analyze the product, said database automatically accessing said software components based on identification of at least one of the computer station, the instrument and the product.

16. A database in accordance with claim 15 wherein said software components are organized into at least one equipment file set defining a station specific test solution to be executed by the computer station to direct the instrument to perform a test solution, said equipment file set being uniquely associated with the computer station and the instrument, said equipment file set being independent of the product.

17. A database in accordance with claim 15 wherein said software components are organized into at least one test program set that defines a product specific test solution to be executed by the computer station to direct the instrument to perform a test solution on the product, said test program set being uniquely associated with the product, said test program set being associated with the instrument and the computer station.

18. A database in accordance with claim 15 wherein said software components correspond to at least one of a communication file, a configuration file, a calibration file, a test executive file, a test sequence file, a specification file, and a test step execution file.

19. A database in accordance with claim 15 wherein said software components are configured to control the computer station to analyze at least one of a printed circuit board assembly, a combination of printed circuit board assemblies, a module, a circuit pack, a field replaceable unit (FRU), a processor, a memory, and a cable.

20. A database in accordance with claim 15 wherein said software components define an equipment file set that, when executed by the computer station, calibrates an instrument to execute a test sequence.

21. A system comprising:

a computer station configured to control operation of an instrument as the instrument analyzes a product, said computer station controlling the instrument based on at least one of an equipment file set and a test program set; and

a management system database in communication with said computer station, said database storing said at least one of an equipment file set and test program set, said database being accessible by said computer station, wherein said computer station controls said instrument during analysis of the product based on said at least one of an equipment file set and a test program set.

22. A system in accordance with claim 21 wherein said test program set includes a set of software components that are specific to the product and associated with at least one of said computer station and said instrument.

23. A system in accordance with claim 21 further comprising a test station communicating with said computer station and said instrument, and said

equipment file set including a set of software components associated with said test station and independent of said product.

24. A system in accordance with claim 21 wherein said product is one of a printed circuit board assembly, a module, a circuit pack, a field replaceable unit (FRU), a processor, a memory, and a cable.

25. A system in accordance with claim 21 wherein the equipment file set includes at least one of a communication file, a configuration file, a calibration file, a test executive file, a test sequence file, and a specification file.

26. A system in accordance with claim 21 further comprising a developer file that enables a user to track relationships between said instrument and said computer station.

27. A system in accordance with claim 21 further comprising a pre-release tool that is used to release information generated in a developer file.

28. A system for developing software components, said system comprising:

a test station communicating with a computer station; and

a source code control system permitting a user to develop software components that, when used by said computer station, directs said computer station to control an instrument during analysis of a product, wherein said source code control system is used to develop a relation between an identification of the test station and an identification of the product.

29. A system in accordance with claim 28 further comprising at least one of:

an equipment file set that is uniquely associated with said test station and independent of said product; and

a test program set that is uniquely associated with said product and associated with said test station.

30. A system in accordance with claim 28 further comprising:

a database; and

a pre-release tool that parses a developer file created by the user to track relationships, wherein said pre-release tool parses to check for data items within said developer file with respect to pre-existing information within said database.

31. A system in accordance with claim 28 further comprising a workbook configured to create equipment file sets and test program sets in connection with new solutions configured to test said product.

32. A system in accordance with claim 28 further comprising an equipment file set that includes at least one file including a test solution executed by a computer station, said computer station directs an instrument to test said product, said equipment file set being uniquely associated with at least one of said computer station and said instrument, and said equipment file set being independent of said product.

33. A system in accordance with claim 28 further comprising a test program set that includes at least one file including a test solution executed by a computer station, said computer station directs an instrument to test the product, said test program set being uniquely associated with said product, and said test program set being associated with at least one of said instrument and said computer station.